IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor represented by the formula LnlAGaBlB2B3O,

wherein Lnl is at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, and Sm, the content thereof being 43.6 to 51.2 percent by weight,

A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Sr, Ca, and Ba, the content thereof being 5.4 to 11.1 percent by weight,

the content of Ga is 20.0 to 23.9 percent by weight,

Bl is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al, and In,

B2 is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, and Cu,

B3 is at least one element selected from the group consisting Al, Mg, Co, Ni, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mn, and Zr,

wherein~~, in the case in which~~ B3 is an element ~~differing~~ different from B1 ~~or~~ and B2, the content of Bl is 1.21 to 1.76 percent by weight, the content of B2 is 0.84 to 1.26 percent by weight, and the content of B3 is 0.23 to 3.08 percent by weight~~, and~~

~~in the case in which B3 is an element equal to Bl or B2, the total content of Bl and B3 is 1.41 to 2.70 percent by weight, and the total content of B2 and B3 is 1.07 to 2.10 percent by weight~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to Claim 1, comprising a plurality of first crystal grains and a plurality of second crystal grains, wherein the first crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise elements Lnl, A, and Ga and the second crystal grains [composed of] comprise element Bl, and the first crystal grains and the second crystal

grains are present in ~~the~~ matrix crystal grains other than the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to Claim 1, comprising a plurality of first crystal grains and a plurality of second crystal grains, wherein the first crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise elements Lnl, A, and Ga and the second crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise element Bl, and the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are present in ~~the~~ matrix crystal grains other than the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 2 and 3~~ claim 2, wherein the grain diameters of the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are 0.1 to 2.0 μm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) An oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 2 and 3~~ Claim 2, wherein the grain diameter of the matrix crystal grains is 2.0 to 7.0 μm.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) An oxide ion conductor represented by the formula $Lnl_{1-x}A_xGa_{1-y-z-w}B1_yB2_zB3_wO_{3-d}$,

wherein Lnl is at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, and Sm,

A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Sr, Ca, and Ba,

B1 is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al, and In,

B2 is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, and Cu,

B3 is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Co, Ni, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mn, and Zr,

wherein B1, B2 and B3 are different, and

x is 0.05 to 0.3, y is 0.025 to 0.29, z is 0.01 to 0.15, w is 0.01 o 0.15, y+z+w is 0.035 to 0.3, and d is 0.04 to 0.3.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to Claim 6, comprising a plurality of first crystal grains and a plurality of second crystal grains, wherein the first crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise elements Lnl, A, and Ga and the second crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise element Bl, and the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are present between matrix crystal grains other than the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to Claim 6, comprising a plurality of first crystal grains and a plurality of second crystal grains, wherein the first crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise elements Lnl, A, and Ga and the second crystal grains ~~composed of~~ comprise element Bl, and the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are present in ~~the~~ matrix crystal grains other than the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 7 and 8~~ claim 7, wherein the grain diameters of the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are 0.1 to 2.0 μm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 7 and 8~~ claim 7, wherein the grain diameter of the matrix crystal grains is 2.0 to 7.0 μm.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method ~~for manufacturing an oxide ion conductor,~~ comprising:

~~a step of~~ mixing individual powdered oxides ~~composed of~~ comprising Lnl, A, Ga, B1, and B2 ~~in ratios in accordance with those described in Claim 1 so as~~ to form a first powdered mixture;

~~a step of~~ calcining the first powdered mixture at 500 to 1,300 C for 1 to 10 hours ~~so as~~ to form a calcined powder;

~~a step of~~ mixing a powdered oxide ~~composed of~~ comprising B3 ~~in a ratio in accordance with that described in Claim 1~~ with the calcined powder ~~so as~~ to form a second powdered mixture;

~~a step of~~ molding the second powdered mixture into a molded body having a predetermined shape; and

~~a step of~~ baking the molded body ~~for sintering~~ at 1,200 to 1,600 C for 0.5 to 20 hours to form an oxide ion conductor of formula LnlAGaBlB2B3O

wherein Lnl is at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Ce, Pr, Nd, and Sm, the content thereof being 43.6 to 51.2 percent by weight,

A is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Sr, Ca, and Ba, the content thereof being 5.4 to 11.1 percent by weight,

the content of Ga is 20.0 to 23.9 percent by weight,

Bl is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al, and In,

B2 is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, and Cu,

B3 is at least one element selected from the group consisting Al, Mg, Co, Ni, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mn, and Zr,

wherein B3 is an element different from B1 and B2, the content of Bl is 1.21 to 1.76 percent by weight, the content of B2 is 0.84 to 1.26 percent by weight, and the content of B3 is 0.23 to 3.08 percent by weight.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A solid oxide fuel cell ~~provided with~~ comprising an electrolyte comprising an oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 1 and 6~~ claim 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A gas sensor comprising an oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 1 and 6~~ claim 1.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An oxygen separation membrane ~~for use in an electrochemical oxygen pump,~~ comprising an oxide ion conductor according to ~~one of Claims 1 and 6~~ claim 1.

Claim 15 (New): An oxide ion conductor according to claim 3, wherein the grain diameters of the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are 0.1 to 2.0 μm.

Claim 16 (New): An oxide ion conductor according to Claim 3, wherein the grain diameter of the matrix crystal grains is 2.0 to 7.0 μm.

Claim 17 (New): An oxide ion conductor according to claim 8, wherein the grain diameters of the first crystal grains and the second crystal grains are 0.1 to 2.0 μm.

Claim 18 (New): An oxide ion conductor according to claim 8, wherein the grain diameter of the matrix crystal grains is 2.0 to 7.0 μm.

Claim 19 (New): A solid oxide fuel cell comprising an electrolyte comprising an oxide ion conductor according to claim 6.

Claim 20 (New): A gas sensor comprising an oxide ion conductor according to claim 6.

Claim 21 (New): An oxygen separation membrane comprising an oxide ion conductor according to claim 6.

Claim 22 (New): The oxide ion conductor of Claim 1, wherein B3 is selected from the group consisting of Zn, Mn and Zr.

Claim 23 (New): The oxide ion conductor of Claim 6, wherein B3 is selected from the group consisting of Zn, Mn and Zr.